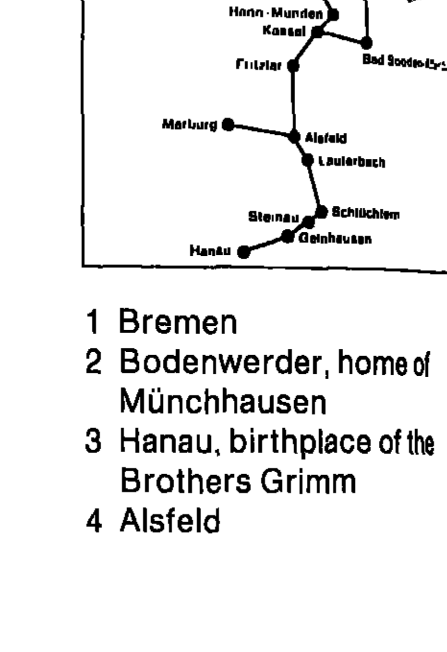
Routes to tour in Germany



The German Fairy Tale Route

1 Bremen
2 Bodenwerder, home of Münchhausen
3 Hanau, birthplace of the Brothers Grimm
4 Alsfeld

German roads will get you there – even if nostalgia is your destination. On your next visit why not call to mind those halcyon childhood days when your mother or father told you fairy tales, maybe German ones? The surroundings in which our great fairy tale writers lived or the scenes in which the tales themselves were set will make their meaning even clearer and show you that many are based on a fairly realistic background.

On a tour from Hanau, near Frankfurt, where the Brothers Grimm were born, to Bremen, where the Town Band (consisting of a donkey, a dog, a cat and a cockerel) played such dreadful music that it put even robbers to flight, you will enjoy the varying kinds of countryside. And do stop over at Bodenwerder. That was where Baron Münchhausen told his breathtaking lies.

Visit Germany and let the Fairy Tale Route be your guide.











The German Tribune

Hamburg, 15 April 1984
Twenty-third year - No. 1129 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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Nato strategy enters the Star Wars era

Süddeutsche Zeitung

A fairly harmless communiqué had been issued at the end of a fairly harmless session of Nato's nuclear planning group, said a member of the German delegation.

He was referring to the meeting of Nato Defence Ministers in the idyllic Turkish Aegean resort of Cesme. His assessment is doubtless right when only a fleeting glance is taken at the communiqué.

It emphasises cohesion and solidarity within Nato. It stresses, with the usual provisos, the December 1979 dual-track decision, Moscow being called on to return to the negotiating table.

Yet behind closed doors at the Golden Dolphin Hotel high-ranking politicians dealt for the first time at Nato level with Washington's plans for a complete change in the basis of Western nuclear strategy in the none too distant future.

The Americans would like to see the new strategy no longer based on the idea of preventing war by means of retaliation potential, in other words the ability to stage a nuclear counter-strike.

The United States wants to gain an opportunity of warding off a classical nuclear attack by destroying incoming missiles.

A potential aggressor is no longer to be deterred by the certainty that his aggression will be promptly followed by his own nuclear destruction.

A further deterrent is to be provided by the fact that once an aggressor has launched his missiles he can be sure most of them will be knocked out without having harmed the enemy in any way.

The aggressor would then be virtually defenceless in nuclear terms and more or less at the mercy of the military and political will of the country attacked.

Current nuclear strategy is based on the argument that the first power to set its missiles in motion will be the second to die.

It rules out nuclear war as a rational means of pursuing political interests. It stands to be replaced by a functioning anti-missile system.

In March 1983 President Reagan announced in his Star Wars speech that the United States intended to invest enormous sums of money in researching and developing anti-missile systems.

They would be mainly based in space and combat Soviet missiles at various points in their trajectory by means of laser beams.

One reason advanced for the change envisaged was a desire not to base future nuclear strategy on the concept of retaliation.

Another was that the Soviet Union was busy developing anti-missile systems of its own.

For Europe these space plans are not without their drawbacks. Before the NPG met, Bonn Defence Minister Manfred Wörner complained that there had so far been few if any consultations between America and Europe on this issue.

Consultations may now have been held in Cesme, but many critical objections remain unanswered. US Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said his delegation had merely presented technical and scientific information.

His European colleagues had asked questions but not voiced criticism.

Herr Wörner shortly afterwards described the course of the proceedings in different terms. He listed a range of points testifying to great scepticism about US views on nuclear strategy in the decades ahead.

The evaluation gap between Weinberger and Wörner was so wide that an American observer termed the Bonn Defence Minister the "mouthpiece of European scepticism."

Herr Wörner voiced fundamental criticism of the Star Wars plans, officially known as the strategic defence initiative.

Technically, he said, it was virtually impossible to ensure total protection from incoming missiles. Only if this was achieved would it be a purely defensive strategy.

Otherwise, it followed, a considerable nuclear offensive potential would need to be retained in order to be able to strike back after an attack that was even partly successful.

Any such strategic mix of anti-missile systems and accurately targetable intercontinental missiles would inevitably be taken by the enemy to be a first strike capability.

On account of this very destabilising effect the number of ABMs permitted by the terms of the Salt agreements was strictly limited.

Herr Wörner also noted with unaccus-

Continued on page 2



Chancellor Helmut Kohl (right) conferring in Bonn with Günter Mittag, the East German Foreign Trade Minister, who was in the Federal Republic for the Hanover Fair.
(Photo: Bundesbildstelle)

Intra-German talks in Bonn sidestep main issues

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

Intra-German ties have been something special ever since they have existed. They bear the hallmarks of more taboos than relations between other states.

Only when these taboos are carefully observed can there be any guarantee that the bridges built to enable people in the two parts of Germany to come closer together will not collapse again.

The result is that the powers that be in Bonn and East Berlin are always extremely careful in the way they deal with each other.

As a rule they agree to shelve at all negotiations any points on which a consensus seems impossible.

Agreement currently seems mainly to prevail on economic and trade policy issues, as shown by the visit to Bonn by Günter Mittag of the GDR politbureau.

The two sides are said not to have discussed further loan facilities, but Chancellor Kohl and his visitor were clearly firmly agreed on one point.

Every effort is to continue to be made to ensure that intra-German trade flourishes.

Never a mention was made of what much more keenly interests people on both sides of the border, such as how the GDR plans in future to handle travel restrictions on its citizens and what changes, if any, are to be made to the amount visitors from the West are required to change in hard currency per day of stay.

No official comment may have been made after the meeting between Helmut Kohl and Günter Mittag, but East Berlin indirectly made it clear how little the GDR is really interested in opening even the smallest safety valve anywhere in East Germany.

The GDR authorities may still be letting people out of the country but they are scared stiff of a dam busting.

There can be no other explanation for the threat that the exit permits issued for 35 GDR citizens who sought refuge in Bonn's embassy in Prague were positively the last.

The plain speaking of these warning words is the less salient feature. In the wake of recent events it was only to be expected.

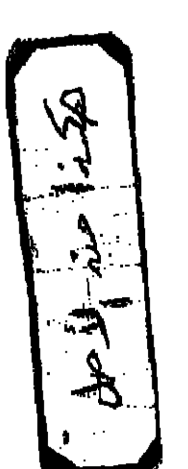
But anyone who may on the quiet have hoped that the GDR might be prepared, given the greater intra-German leeway East Berlin seems to have been given by Moscow, to make concessions on travel to the West will now again conclude he has been harbouring illusions.

GDR citizens are unlikely for ages to enjoy half-way normal travel facilities such as Hungarians have for years enjoyed without the Hungarian regime needing to fear a mass exodus.

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 7 April 1984)

IN THIS ISSUE

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE's next issue will appear on 29 April



■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Uncle Sam feels less sure of Western Europe

When Americans think of Europe they swing between praise and reproof. European leaders are welcomed in the White House as statesmen whose resolution and strong nerves on missile deployment have helped Nato to win the day.

Soviet intimidation and threats are said to have rebounded off them and their countries. The Atlantic alliance is said to be stronger, to stand firmer and to be more united than ever.

Pride is said to be what is called for, not faint-heartedness, despondency and pessimism.

Yet other comments can be heard and read in between visits. Henry Kissinger's proposals for a reform of the North Atlantic pact were little more than the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

By virtue of his importance and prestige he drew attention to trends in American political and intellectual circles that have long been more widespread than may possibly be assumed in London, Paris and Bonn.

De-Americanisation of the defence of Europe has already become a fairly firm concept in political terminology.

Somehow or other the Americans are dissatisfied with the entire course of events. The way the Europeans are behaving is increasingly getting on their nerves.

The Economist, London, has caricatured this state of affairs accurately and with caustic humour. In American eyes

Christ und Welt
Rheinischer Merkur

the European is seen as a know-all with no marrow in his bones, weak at the knees and with cold feet.

With his right eye he looks angrily at Reagan, while turning a blind left eye on Moscow.

Months of heated debate in European political parties, parliaments, governments and media on the deployment of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles have left traces of hurt among supporters of Nato in the United States.

In countless speeches and articles they found themselves mirrored as cowboys with their fingers on the nuclear trigger.

Washington is in no way consoled by ther fact that by the rules of parliamentary democracy Margaret Thatcher, François Mitterrand and Helmut Kohl, the three mainstays of Western solidarity and loyalty, still have long terms in office ahead of them.

By the same rules of the game their respective Oppositions might one day take over, and Americans take a dim view of the prospect of a Labour government in London or an SPD government in Bonn.

The danger of a transatlantic trade war has by no means been averted. If America and Western Europe were to end up at war in this way, the Atlantic alliance could hardly survive, or so high-ranking Reagan administration officials feel.

For years the United States is said to have tolerated European agricultural protectionism, but now the Europeans with their subsidised farm-gate prices are robbing American farmers, who are unable to compete with these prices, of their export markets.

Why, for that matter, the constant criticism of America's budget deficit and high interest rates? Neither are felt to be solely to blame for everything, as Europeans claim.

After all, the GNP of the Ten is larger than that of the United States.

In a word, a growing disappointment with Europe is gaining ground among American politicians and academics.

This pessimism has particularly beset those who used to think as much in European terms as Churchill, Schuman, de Gasperi and Adenauer and played an active part in word and deed in the post-war utopia of a United States of Europe.

These elder Americans wanted to bequeath their younger fellow-countrymen a political legacy and now feel that less is left of the will for political unity than they had assumed.

Europe, they note with regret, is marching backwards in the direction of renationalisation.

American "Europeans" who once held high government office are in mourning at the demise of their hopes. Younger Americans are less sentimental.

For them, Europe merely forms part of their system of coordinates of national self-interest and no longer makes their hearts beat faster.

Europe still holds pride of place in this system and is likely to do so for the foreseeable future, but this state of affairs could change.

A change seems predestined by the decline in authority of the Europe-oriented East coast Establishment.

Jimmy Carter's Georgian Mafia and Ronald Reagan's California crew have already made the point. If Gary Hart were to become President he would be sure to bring with him to the White House a team of aides from Colorado.

The Americans are gazing with greater fascination than ever at the US West, which they sense to have a future, or at least more of a future than New England and the European part of the United States on the Atlantic seaboard.

Westward migration is causing a population decline in states along the Eastern seaboard, whereas population is on the increase toward the Rockies and the Pacific.

On account of the westward orientation many Americans are suddenly coming to feel the Sun is rising in the West.

California, larger than the Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark, Benelux and Switzerland combined, has become the symbol of the two basic trends in historic development: westward orientation and westward migration.

If California were independent it would rank eighth in the world in terms of GNP. The 24 million Californians account for a larger GNP than the billion Chinese.

The emphasis is also changing in the United States by virtue of millions of immigrants from Latin America and the Far East.

The Pacific coast is nowadays more often regarded as symbolising hope for the future than the Atlantic seaboard, and observers have long looked beyond it to the countries of the Pacific basin.

Trade with them first outstripped trade with Western Europe in 1978. Its lead has increased by leaps and bounds. In 1982 trade with the Pacific countries exceeded trade with Europe by $13bn.

Japan in particular has emerged as a magnet in attracting American curiosity. Whenever mention is made of the future and the dawn of the high tech age, Americans see Japan as the only possible competitor.

The Far Eastern empire with its Confucian social structures has replaced Western Europe when it comes to who will prevail tomorrow and the day after.

It is no wonder that political interest has increased in keeping with the Americans' economic fascination with Japan, especially as insular Japan forms a barrier between America and China.

An increasing number of Americans are clamouring for compensation in the Far East for disappointments in Western Europe. Why? Because when they think of Europe they are overcome with cultural pessimism.

Nothing new seems to be emerging from Europe. America's bridgehead on the Euro-Asian landmass creates the impression of being a burnt-out case, rich in ideas but poor in deeds.

After centuries on the offensive it is now felt to be solely on the defensive. It may be a marvellous continent for a holiday with its castles, museums and opera houses. But it is only an Athens and no longer a Rome.

Hans Wilhelm Vahlefeld

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 6 April 1984)

Genscher calls for boost to East-West dialogue

DIE WELT

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher feels the current international situation, in spite of many problems, is "ripe for fresh efforts to reach wide-ranging, long-term understanding between West and East on constructive, stable and equal relations."

He reaches this conclusion in a fundamental article published in Bonn at the end of March.

The political dialogue must, he writes, he used "to define territories of agreement between West and East." In this connection the dialogue on disarmament and arms control must be intensified and expanded.

Diplomatic circles feel these comments reflect a desire to lend fresh impetus to the East-West dialogue, which has run aground.

Herr Genscher would like to see the spring conference of Nato Foreign Ministers in Washington on 29 and 30 May used to reaffirm overall alliance strategy.

This he envisages being done on the basis of the 1967 Harmel Report and Nato's 1983 "Brussels signal" to reactivate relations with the East on a longer term.

He presupposes the maintenance of Nato unity and the "firmness of the transatlantic relationship," noting that: "Europe and America complement and need each other. The more firmly based the European pillar is, the firmer and more capable of action the pact will be."

Referring to recent comments by former Secretary of State Kissinger and Mr Eagleburger of the present State Department, he writes:

"Common interests are served neither by the play with warnings of America turning its back on Europe and with Pacific visions nor by dealing in concepts of Europeanisation that are aimed not at strengthening the European pillar of the alliance but at decoupling."

He calls for a boost to topics that are on the conference table now. With references to the MBFR talks in Vienna and to the Geneva UN talks on an international ban on chemical weapons he evidently aims to call on the Americans to submit as soon as possible the new proposals they have said they plan to make at both conferences but have yet to outline.

At the Stockholm conference, he feels specific talks on confidence-building measures must now be held, with the West not being reluctant to detail the renunciation of the use of force proclaimed by Nato.

Herr Genscher stresses Bonn's determination to continue and extend relations with Moscow, which he says still contain many unexplored opportunities.

With this is mind he will be holding political consultations in the Soviet capital in the second half of May.

Bernt Conrad

(Die Welt, 31 March 1984)

Continued from page 1

tomed clarity the risk of a fresh arms race by both sides to attain strategic defensive capacity.

Cash and resources would in this way be diverted into a sector he clearly didn't feel needed expanding. He gingerly recalled the risk of zones of unequal security growing even more marked within the alliance.

If only the United States was able to protect itself by means of a defensive system, the Europeans would still run the remaining nuclear risk in the form of Soviet SS-20 missiles and a range of tactical Warsaw Pact weapons.

Mr Weinberger's delegation in Cesme evidently referred to the possibility of setting up a land-based European anti-missile network.

But any such idea would come a cropper for lack of cash and on account of opposition from public opinion in Western Europe.

What the Reagan administration clearly regards as a strategic perspective for the year 2000 has sounded the alarm for America's most faithful ally, the Federal Republic, and its otherwise pro-American Defence Minister.

Disagreement on the Star Wars concept will intensify growing transatlantic discord.

Kurt Kister

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 5 April 1984)

The German Tribune

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

The man who led the Grand Coalition in Bonn

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Kurt Georg Kiesinger, Chancellor in the Grand Coalition from 1966 to 1969, recently celebrated his eightieth birthday.

Only a few years ago he he was voluble in his off-the-cuff comments about politics and the problems of the times.

But in recent years he has rarely left his home in Tübingen and has been unwilling to give interviews.

When he was in office he was prone to go off and think about matters in peace and quiet.

Critics taking only a short-term view said he was only interested in "talking, travel and being a figure-head" rather than going deeply into politics.

But this is only one side of an unusual personality. He has himself revealed the other aspect of his nature: he is on record as having said he wanted to be a poet.

Kiesinger was born in Ebingen in Swabia. He lost his mother when very young and was raised in poverty along with six step-brothers and sisters.

He attended a Catholic school and at 22 took his *Abitur* and studied teaching, philosophy and literature.

A knitwear manufacturer who patronised the gifted young man paid for the publication of his first book of poetry *The Pilgrimage to God*, of which 100 copies were printed.

In 1927 he decided to change his studies, joining the law faculty of Berlin University. In March 1933 he joined the Nazi Party and is on record as having said that his Catholic friends "and I were of the opinion that one had to influence developments."

After the *Reichskristallnacht* pogrom of November 1938 he wanted to emigrate to Brazil. In 1940 he was co-opted to serve in the Foreign Office. Because of this service he spent eighteen months after the war in a American prison.

Kiesinger decided to join the Christian Democratic Union in 1948 and he was made party area manager in Württemberg-Hohenzollern. In the following year he was elected to the Bonn Bundestag.

His speaking talents (he was known as King Silver Tongue) came to the fore in the Bundestag debates in the 1950s that ended up bringing the Federal Republic into the Western camp. His prowess in the debates arguably cost him the jobs of president of the Bundestag, parliamentary party leader and justice minister, all of which he stood for unsuccessfully. There is a touch of irony in the fact that Kiesinger, a foreign affairs expert, became Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg. But in November 1966, when the steam had gone out of Chancellor Ludwig Erhard's administration and feuding broke out among the party leaders for a successor to the Chancellor, the CDU called Kiesinger back to Bonn. He was Chancellor of the Grand Coalition between the CDU/CSU and the SPD.

During his liberal but not particularly interesting leadership the Social Democrats achieved what they had never believed they would be able to achieve in Adenauer's time — the prestige of being a party in government.

Kiesinger's administration that included Brandt, Wehner and Strauss, tackled economic problems and made the first moves to cooperation with the communist countries of the East Bloc.

He retired to his home in Tübingen, to devote himself to his family, to reading and long walks alone.

As a former chancellor he had an office in Bonn. There he has been engaged in writing his memoirs, and he is quoted as having said that they "should not be boring." But there is no indication when the book will be completed.

Hans Werner Kettenbach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 5 April 1984)



Ex-Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger, 80, and wife Marieluise. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Spokeswomen lead Greens in Bundestag

The Greens have again surprised Bonn's political world by appointing women to the parliamentary party leadership. Their predecessors, Joseph (Joschka) Fischer and lawyer Otto Schily, were not re-elected. But the very symbol of the Greens, Petra Kelly, was swept from office in the party she helped found.

Through mistrust and controls the Greens have been able to threaten ideas for which the party and the movement has stood for — solidarity, a feeling for people, tolerance and sympathy for the underdog.

Many Greens in the harsh Bonn atmosphere have become weary, worn out and impatient. So Petra Kelly complained at least.

Marieluise Beck-Oberdorf and Otto Schily have been caught up in this basic distrust of democracy. Green MPs suspected of fostering a personality cult and hob-nobbing with the media are out.

For this reason the party applies the principle of leadership by turns, rotary leadership, which harms parliamentary continuity and the party's public stance, but what is that to the Greens?

Their success in Baden-Württemberg shows that they can deal with their media image without any trouble.

Men have been swept from the leadership by processes to which they gave their agreement. The matriarchy has knocked the "cockerel from his pedestral" and it is unlikely that the men will regain their former position.

The mothers' assumption of power is part of the party programme, according to Antje Vollmer, one of the three new party spokeswomen.

At the Greens' European election campaign conference in Karlsruhe she proclaimed the idea of a "Europe of mother countries."

Rainer Nahrendorf

(Handelsblatt, 5 April 1984)

New woman in Lothar Späth's Stuttgart Cabinet

Barbara Schäfer (Photo. dpa)

Barbara Schäfer, 49, a senior secondary school teacher from Karlsruhe has joined the cabinet of Lothar Späth, prime minister of Baden-Württemberg, as minister for social affairs.

She is the only woman in the cabinet but her position as chairwoman of the CDU's Women's Association obliged Späth to include her in his administration after the 25 March elections.

The only female companion Barbara Schäfer had in the 68-strong state parliament in Stuttgart was Minister for Federal Affairs Annemarie Griesinger, but she had said before the election that she wanted to resign partly for family reasons and partly because of her age.

Frau Griesinger held the post of Minister for Labour, Health and Social Affairs (that was to be known in future as the Ministry for Family Affairs) from 1972 to 1980.

It will not be an easy job for her, Barbara Schäfer said. From her office in Stuttgart she will head a Ministry of 300 who are responsible for the efficient management of thousands of others who work in such different branches of affairs as the labour courts, employment departments or the state psychiatric clinics.

As a teacher of Latin, French and history, her hesitation can be understood,

Frankfurter Allgemeine

for she has had little experience of government.

She was not particularly ambitious for a post in Späth's cabinet for herself. She would have been quite content if an experienced female social affairs politician had been brought in from another state, but she is confident that she will be able to manage the job before her.

In the five years she had been in the state parliament she has displayed intelligence and political flair. In parliament she concentrated on cultural and social affairs.

She came into the state parliament after the unexpected death of Justice Minister Traugott Bender. He persuaded her in 1975 to join the CDU, and in 1980 she was able to defend easily her Karlsruhe constituency with 47 per cent of the vote.

Like the whole of the CDU in the recent election she lost votes, but she still held her constituency seat with 44.5 per cent of the vote.

She is now the only newcomer to Späth's cabinet as a means of solving an embarrassing situation. Her career shows clearly that there are chances for women within the ranks of the CDU.

In less than ten years she has risen from new party member to being a minister, although in the newly elected state parliament there are still only two women.

They will have to battle against the view that they are statutory women in a men's world, just as Barbara Schäfer will have to do.

The new minister was born in Borken in 1934. Both her parents were social workers. She is Catholic, a widow without children.

In Lothar Späth's cabinet she will have two primary tasks: to make the social affairs aspects of Späth's programme her own in family affairs policies, and to see that women in Baden-Württemberg are not manipulated "back to the kitchen."

Bert Hauser

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 31 March 1984)

■ MEDIA

Keeping an eye on video porn and horror

Hannoversche Allgemeine

The writer accompanied Herr Berens, a Bonn social worker, on his round of video cassette lending libraries in the north of the city to check that juveniles have no access to porn or horror movies.

The first shop is run by a photo dealer who has stocked several dozen cassettes for some time. For those who ask he has a box of blue movies in a back room.

He doesn't stock horror films. He refuses to do so as a matter of principle and because he has children of his own. But he forfeits potential turnover, he says. The demand is there.

The second dealer has only just started a cassette lending library. His aim, he explains, is to gain regular custom for his radio and TV shop.

The display includes a number of cassettes bearing nothing but the legend: "indexed films at the counter." Any customers so interested will then know they only have to ask for porn or horror.

The third dealer has a larger library and stocks several hundred titles. A surprising number of cassettes are marked "indexed," meaning they aren't for sale or hire to under-18s.

Displaying them in public is banned too, but the shop isn't open to the general public. There is a sign at the door, although it is easily overlooked, stating: "No admittance for under-18s."

This ban causes constant trouble, the dealer says, especially when parents fail to see why they can't bring children with them into the shop.

But he says he is adamant. He would, wouldn't he? He has been charged with a breach of the Youth Protection Act and the case is still pending.

Herr Berens is fairly satisfied with the result of his round, although as a private individual he is at a loss to understand why horror films are made and why there is such a demand for them.

As a social worker his job is merely to keep an eye on cassette lending libraries and make sure that porn and horror are not freely available to juveniles.

One shop doesn't stock them at all, another keeps them under the counter and the third doesn't allow juveniles on the premises.

In theory all three abide by youth protection legislation. Whether they invariably do so in practice is another matter.

That is a problem Herr Berens can hardly tackle, any more than he can deal with the problem that juveniles can gain access to indexed films via parents who hire them.

His local authority department lacks both the time and the staff to keep a constant check. He is happy to be able to keep an occasional eye on Bonn's 20 cassette lending libraries alongside his other work.

Horror movies are definitely the main problem now, whereas blue movies were the problem until about 1980. "Blue movies are no trouble these days," he says.

Inspection is only part of his department's work to keep video clean where young people are concerned. Information is equally important.

Lectures and seminars are held in collaboration with experts to brief parents and teachers on why horror films are so dangerous. Bonn is one of the most active local authorities in Germany in this work.

The round table talk held the following day is part of it. It was attended by social workers and cassette librarians, by the head of the agency that vets books, comics, magazines and cassettes for their suitability for the young, and by representatives of the police and other law enforcement agencies.

These talks are held every six months with a view to persuading cassette libraries to abide by the law and to giving the dealers that run them the impression that the authorities are not simply against them but would like to cooperate with them.

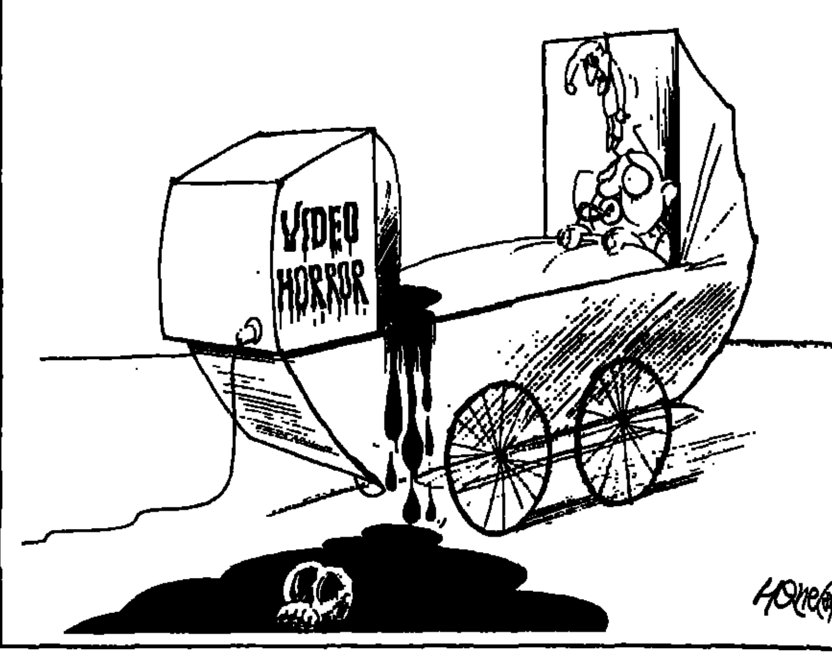
In his opening remarks a local authority official refers to a responsibility shared in spite of differing interests. But the debate is not as smooth as these dulcet tones.

The problems of the horror boom are too readily apparent even though everyone agrees that the films are a disgrace. Lending library owners find them distasteful but are at a loss to reconcile good taste and commercial principles.

Competition is fierce, dealers say. If they don't stock horror movies, customers will simply go somewhere else. As one dealer put it: "I would soonest stock only cassettes that are beyond reproach, but what benefit do I stand to derive if I no longer have any customers?"

To hear dealers talk, you would think there was nothing they were keener on than to ensure they stayed on the right side of the law and kept trash out of young people's reach.

An army of experts are now looking into why young people (and adults) are so keen on it. Views vary, even including the idea that young people may see watching a horror movie as a dare.



(Cartoon: Walter Hanel/Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger)

Bonn video cassette dealers are less interested in the reasons put forward. They are convinced the wave would long since have ebbed had it not been for the Press.

The media are said to have given horror cassettes such extensive coverage that many people's interest was stimulated by newspaper reports.

"We were on the point of mothballing old stock," says a spokesman for the trade. "But now we can't get hold of enough to meet the demand."

Dealers are unhappy about being given the blame. "We are cast as the scapegoats, yet we merely hire out what people pay money for."

Law enforcement agencies concede that dealers are responsible for neither the films nor the boom. They are merely the last, weak link in a chain.

The agency head admits that propaganda against blue movies and horror films is often more effective publicity than advertising for them.

Dealers agree they would prefer to be tipped off in time which films were likely to upset the authorities. They would then not buy them, being anxious to avoid clashes with the law.

The authorities agree this is impossible. A spokesman for the public prosecutor's office says: "We only have anything to do with cassettes once all other fuses have blown and a criminal offence may have been committed."

Dealers are told they are responsible for what they lend to the public. The public prosecutor says he can tell in five minutes whether a film ought to be indexed.

Dealers ought to be forced to look at the films themselves. They would then junk them without further ado.

Dealers themselves, especially those with large stocks, say this attitude is totally unrealistic. "Do you know how many cassettes we stock?" one asks.

The blurb is usually so explicit, he is told, that he ought to realise immediately what he is buying.

So the two sides agree only to differ. The dealers do not dispute the need for regulations to protect the young; they merely feel it is asking too much of them to expect them to be the watchdogs.

The only consolation is that they are told it will be sheer coincidence if they are ever caught and prosecuted. Law enforcement spokesmen say they have neither the manpower nor the equipment to carry out regular checks.

Rudolf Grosskopff

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 31 March 1984)

Anomalous proposals on TV for the young

Policy on the arts, education and the media is the responsibility of the *Länder*, not of the Bonn government. So it is hardly surprising that ideas on the new media differ.

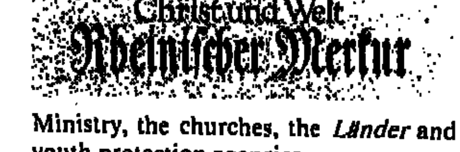
What does come as a surprise is that they differ on when programmes unsuitable for the young are to be screened on commercial TV.

You might expect the draft legislation to adopt the uniform provisions governing the nationwide programmes put out by public broadcasting corporation. Well it doesn't!

In public broadcasting it has been agreed for decades that programmes must be suitable for all the family until 9 p.m., including the under-16s.

After nine all channels may screen material unsuitable for children, but not material that is judged dangerous for the young.

This arrangement applies to the two main nationwide public channels, having been agreed by the Bonn Interior



Ministry, the churches, the *Länder* and youth protection agencies.

Proposed legislation to govern the new media varies on this point except when it comes to the public broadcasting corporations.

They are expected to continue to apply the 9 p.m. ruling — even in *Länder* where they will be competing for viewers with commercial TV programmes to which different regulations apply.

In Baden-Württemberg, for instance, commercial radio and TV are only to be allowed to transmit material unsuitable for children and young people between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

A code is also to be introduced to make it more difficult for juveniles to get to see unsuitable programmes.

Yet programmes approved by the board of film censors for young people aged 16 and over may be screened from 10 p.m. till 6 a.m. without further restriction.

Way up north, legislators have different ideas. Some are not very practicable. Others are based on the view that regulations enforced in cinemas might be applied.

The cinema arrangement is that programmes screened until 8 p.m. must be suitable for the under-12s. Until 10 p.m. they must be suitable for the under-16s. Until midnight they must be suitable for under-18s.

This is what state assemblymen have in mind in Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein. The CDU Opposition in Hamburg has yet another idea in mind.

Hamburg's Christian Democrats would like to see commercial TV programmes fit to be seen by the young until 10 p.m.

There seem to be no plans to reconcile these differences. The states may profess a common approach but in practice they are paddling their own canoes.

If protection of the young is to mean anything at all in the media, this state of affairs must be remedied.

Walter Gauer

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 23 March 1984)

■ EUROPE

Western Europe still depends on America as it did in Nato's early days

When Nato was founded 35 years ago, on 4 April 1949, Germany as a whole was still ostreised on account of its misdeeds under Hitler.

Officially the pact was aimed in part at ensuring defence if member-countries were again attacked by the devastated, prostrate German Reich.

Nowadays the very idea seems absurd, and as early as in 1947 Ernest Bevin, the British Foreign Secretary, wrote to the US government with a different idea in mind.

Consideration must be given, he suggested, to rehabilitating and reincorporating the Germans. This could best be done in the framework of a pact or alliance.

So it was that Nato was basically aimed at halting the advance of the Soviet Union, which had long taken over Poland, Hungary and Rumania and staged a coup in Czechoslovakia shortly before the North Atlantic pact was founded.

The Berlin blockade was bound to give rise to fears that after taking over the Soviet Zone of Germany (which was in the process of becoming the GDR), Moscow would also try to take over West Berlin.

On anniversaries a more lenient view is often taken than on other occasions, so one is bound to concede that Nato has for a substantial period ensured the safety of its member-countries and preserved the peace.

Apart from interludes in Greece and, hopefully, Turkey, Nato countries have

Frankfurter Neue Presse

been or become strongholds of freedom and stability.

Of all the major alliances in world history, Nato alone has been planned exclusively as a defence pact and has proved in practice to be that alone.

Nowadays it takes a conscious feat of memory to recall that apart from Britain, which was sitting pretty as the world's second nuclear power, all other Nato member-countries sought US protection.

They ranged from Norway, which the Soviet Union was keen to neutralise, and Greece, which had narrowly averted a Communist take-over, to Turkey, which had similar reasons for seeking Nato membership and US backing.

After serious domestic disputes the Federal Republic of Germany became a full member of Nato in 1955. The decision was later endorsed at the polls.

Chancellor Adenauer, who was strongly in favour of joining the Western alliance, gained an absolute majority in the 1957 general election, and the Opposition had to reappraise its policy.

As long as the Americans enjoyed a nuclear monopoly, conventional defence was not the main consideration. Massive retaliation seemed a sufficiently powerful deterrent.

But the Soviet Union caught up with the United States, and the Americans were no longer expected to launch a nuclear attack in defence of Europe whatever happened.

That led to the formulation of the flexible response strategy. At the same time European countries developed a new self-confidence to varying degrees.

Britain for instance still saw itself as a world power, while France under de Gaulle was of no mind to be anything less.

General de Gaulle demanded a tripartite directorate, consisting of America, Britain and France, to run Nato as befitted his prestige and that of his country.

America and Britain ruled this idea out, whereupon (please note the sequence of events) the General withdrew, insulted, from Nato's integrated military command.

He didn't resign France's Nato membership, but he decided instead to pay more attention to the emerging, flourishing EEC, which Britain had chosen not to join because it felt it still had a world role to play.

When the British government realised it had made a mistake it was too late. General de Gaulle was not going to let Britain join the Six.

Throughout this period, but especially after Britain finally joined the EEC in 1973, European consciousness gained in strength on a nation-state basis.

Conservative politicians in particular, such as Franz Josef Strauss, were extremely keen on the idea of a European pillar of Nato, which was a concept originally framed by President Kennedy.

This European pillar would be bound to have centred on a Franco-German axis, but the Social and Free Democrats who held power in Bonn proved unshakably pro-Atlantic in outlook, having endorsed the firm ties with America advocated by the late Chancellor Adenauer.

The idea of a European Union was bound to be accompanied by proposals for sharing sovereignty to some extent and for a military union. But until a few years ago France showed little interest in such ideas.

A union of this kind could only work if its governing bodies were allowed to arrive at majority decisions, which were strictly ruled out by the French.

Britain today may have plunged the EEC into an abysmal state of affairs, but it is only fair to recall that it used to be the French who sought to get their own way by means of the veto and empty chair policies.

Opposition politicians today may be in favour of Europe going it alone to some extent, but conservatives are reluctant to allow any slack in ties with America.

At present the Common Market's very survival is at stake, which makes Western Europe as dependent on America (of which it is by no means always enamoured) as it was in Nato's early days.

At this critical stage Dr Kissinger, the former US Secretary of State, has suggested that the Europeans might be prepared to strengthen their military commitments so America could reduce its commitments in Europe.

Helmut Schmidt has taken the idea up and, deeply sceptical though he may be (and he must surely know why), said it is not entirely out of the question.

Dr Kissinger was not just passing the time of day; he is not without influence on the Reagan administration. But the Europeans must appreciate the risks they would run if the US presence in Europe were to be reduced in any way. It would need to be replaced by both a corresponding strengthening of European conventional forces (and even that is virtually inconceivable) and a merger of the British and French nuclear deterrents.

Otherwise Europe would be very much nearer Soviet hegemony, at least with regard to the Federal Republic of Germany.

European union would presuppose Britain and France relinquishing much of their national sovereignty, and both seem less amenable than ever to this idea.

It must also be remembered that in two of the three leading Nato countries in Europe the relationship of the Opposition to the North Atlantic pact is not entirely beyond doubt.

There are powerful forces among Germany's Social Democrats who would, for instance, have hampered Chancellor Schmidt in fulfilling his Nato commitments. In Britain too Labour's position is ambiguous.

In reading the second volume of Dr Kissinger's memoirs one is shocked to see how brutally frank the astute former Secretary of State was in sizing up Willy Brandt, Egon Bahr and Horst Ehmke.

Their final foreign policy objectives, he writes, are the reunification of Germany even if it means accepting neutrality.

It is no less alarming to learn that this mistrust was shared by President Pompidou and Prime Minister Heath at a time when Willy Brandt was at the height of his power and international repute.

Both in Western Europe and in Nato as a whole, profound and mutual mistrust thus still prevails.

So what could be done with a European union? Are we to ignore the clashes over milk, butter, wine and contributions to the European Community and to try and arrive at agreement on defence instead?

Should any idea of collaborating with an obstreperous Britain be abandoned, especially as a Labour government would make Whitehall even more unpredictable?

A Europe on this basis would forfeit from the outset any claim to importance or credibility in dealings with the East.

The fact is that at present only France, whether governed by conservatives or Socialists, is pursuing a clear and unambiguous Westpolitik.

Were power to change hands in London or Bonn, crisis would be sure to ensue in the North Atlantic pact, certainly as matters stand.

It would be made even more alarming by the fact that the Americans would have begun to pull out (an option that is always conceivable).

So dreams of a greater Europe can for the time being only be dreamt in the shade provided by a Nato umbrella in which America continues to play the part it has always played.

It may at times have been more, and at times less to the liking of America's allies, but in the final analysis they remain dependent on the United States.

Hans-Joachim Nimtz

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 31 March 1984)

Bonn seminar takes closer look at the East Bloc

DIE WELT

In political practice the East Bloc is not a homogeneous entity. Hungary is keen to establish ties of its own with the European Community. Rumania regularly adopts a foreign policy line of its own. The Comecon summit is constantly postponed.

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation, which has close links with the ruling Christian Democrats in Bonn, has paid "special attention" to "partners in Eastern Europe."

It has held a seminar on the Warsaw Pact countries concluding with a reminder of the need to arrive at a useful and less superficial view of the countries of Eatern Europe.

In three days of debate and talks on individual countries no special attention was paid to the Soviet Union. This was a deliberate policy decision.

The organisers also planned to leave out the GDR, arguing with the chairman of the foundation, Bruno Heck, that people in the GDR still felt they formed part of one German nation.

But the GDR regularly recurred in connection with the leeway (how much, if any) Eastern European countries were felt to have to pursue independent policies.

The decision to disregard the GDR may be said to have been a mistake inasmuch as it ruled out the possibility of evaluating and going into greater depth on latest findings.

It was agreed early in the proceedings that the GDR had assumed the special status in foreign policy that Poland had forfeited by virtue of domestic developments.

Reviews of the situation in Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria revealed diffuse differences, especially between countries in South-Eastern Europe, by virtue of various currents and forces.

In Hungary and Bulgaria, and in Rumania too, strong and independent national forces have been set to work. They may be regarded as factors for both erosion and evolution in Eastern Europe.

The trend in Czechoslovakia is toward stagnation, with an enormous gap between the goverment and the people. Czechoslovakia is felt to be the East Bloc country truest to the Party line laid down by Moscow.

Eastern Europe, most speakers agreed, has on balance become a political and economic burden on the Soviet Union.

Professor Gumpel of Munich University department of South-East European Studies dealt with the lack of interest in integration and the inefficiency of Comecon.

He said the Soviet Union under Mr Chernenko would prove keener on uniformity, which would limit future leeway.

Karl-Hermann Fink of an organisa-

Continued on page 6

■ THE WORKFORCE

Wide-ranging plan to cut unemployment and stamp out illegal labour

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The Federal government has drawn up wide-ranging plans aimed at reducing unemployment and strengthening social security.

Four new laws and 27 amendments have been planned. Some will apply only temporarily, until 1988.

Already there has been criticisms from both the trade unions and the employers over some of the proposals. Both are involved in the consultation process.

Including in the plans, drawn up by Labour Minister Norbert Blüm, are:

- Lengthening the time a firm can employ temporary workers
- Taking steps to have overtime compensated for time off rather than extra pay
- Making it easier for fully employed people to take on part-time work
- Issuing identity cards to casual building workers in an effort to reduce the number of illegal foreign workers and moonlighting German workers
- Introducing stiffer penalties for employers who employ illegal foreign labour
- Increasing earnings limits for pensioners

The legislation is aimed at reinforcing labour and social security rights. The ministry regards the draft legislation as part of a strategy to cut unemployment queues and help the economic situation overall.

It hopes that results will include increased investment and economic diversification and that it will be a step towards the introduction of early retirement.

Temporary job contracts by individuals with firms will be extended from six months to a year before obligation to hire comes into force with the aim of discouraging firms from using overtime as a stop-gap solution.

Temporary staff channelled through employment agencies will be able to work for the same firm for six months in a row instead of three for the same reason.

If the temporary worker is being used as a stand in for a worker who is absent having a baby, the time would be extended to eight months.

If overtime cannot be avoided, the worker would, under the proposals, be required to take time off within 12 months under most circumstances.

Job protection legislation would make it easier and more attractive for those in full employment to take on a part-time job.

Gradual comeback

Doctors will be empowered to issue certificates to those who have been ill for a long time or seriously ill that will certify that they can take on part-time jobs as a step towards getting back into the labour market.

Workers who have spa medical treatment could elect either to pay ten deutschemarks per day or relinquish a sixth of their holiday entitlement.

Many changes are designed to ease the financial load of firms. For example, firms of up to 30 employees will be helped with *Lohnfortzahlung*, the system under which firms pay the first six weeks income when an employee is ill.

Index linking for company pensions is also to be limited.

An employer's liability to index pensions will be restricted to take-home pay. Average earnings in the company or a typical section of the workforce will be used as a yardstick for calculating this.

Sacking fears

Finally when a pensioner's entitlement exceeds 85 per cent of his previous pay, index linking will not apply.

An identity card is to be introduced for casual labour on building sites in a bid to limit the illegal employment of workers and moonlighting.

Greater penalties are to be imposed for illegally employing non-Germans so that Germans or those of assimilated status will have a better chance of finding jobs.

Low-paid workers will have to pay up to fifty per cent of their deductions for health, pension and unemployment benefit just as other workers do.

At the moment they don't. The idea behind this is to encourage employers to take on people who have a low hourly pay or salary so that more people will be employed and less overtime worked.

Pay limits for the disabled are to be standardised. Pensioners who take early retirement and are paid a pension will be able to augment their incomes up to DM390 per month before endangering their pension.

The hearing by employment organisations on the job promotion legislation is to take place from 24 to 27 April. The West German Confederation of Employers Associations told Norbert Blüm in January that it does not regard the relaxation of labour legislation as being much of an aid for job creation.

The mesaures are designed to stimulate employment possibilities but the Confederation takes the view that the effect is in doubt because the red tape needed will act as a hindrance.

The trade unions fear that the extension of the temporary job contract limit will undermine dismissal legislation and legitimise the sacking of workers.

The unions also criticise the extension of temporary staff measures and the offer of paid time off for overtime.

This would have no immediate effect on overtime but will probably work its way through the system months later.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 March 1984)

Overtime limits upset unions, employers

Neither the trade unions nor employers are happy about Labour Minister Norbert Blüm's proposal to limit overtime.

Workers involved will have least cause to rejoice. It will cost them money. They will have to take time off instead.

Employers say the legislation will limit their flexibility. They don't like the 12-month period — it may be longer in some cases — during which the time off may be taken.

They regard the legislation as a further example of government dabbling in their affairs.

The unions, on the other hand, complain that the steps are half hearted. They would rather have legislation dealing with working hours rather than this special law.

Herr Blüm is not prepared to depart from 1938 labour legislation which lays down that no more than 30 days a year may be worked over and above normal hours.

This new legislation is unlikely to cut unemployment for two reasons. The period for time off in lieu is, at 12

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

months, too long; and it is the company rather than the employee which makes the choice about when the time off is taken.

Despite what employers' organisations say, flexibility of industry and commerce will be increased so that variations in production can be catered for by adjustments in capacity.

In purely economic terms, this is a plus.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 28 March 1984)

Subsidy scheme to encourage early retirement

Legislation encouraging people to retire early has been passed by the Bundestag. It provides for subsidies to be paid when the worker retiring is replaced.

The question that nobody knows the answer to is how many people will accept the offer.

What is certain is that the legislation will not disadvantage the job market. In this it is different from from the 35-hour-week proposal, which would run the risk of reducing the number of jobs available.

Even the Opposition has admitted that the early retirement scheme could provide 25,000 jobs. That is more positive than the shorter working week is likely to be.

Early retirement legislation, applicable until 1988, has the advantage that employers and employees can both assess

Nordwest Zeitung

the plan and following the principles of freedom of choice, choose what is in their own best interests.

In view of the conflict that surrounds wage negotiations in the metal and printing industries the fact that this legislation has been agreed should be welcomed.

Labour Minister Norbert Blüm should welcome the inclusion in the legislation of something like an offer of peace to the two sides in the wage negotiations.

Both sides have got themselves into a cul de sac on the question of shortening the working week.

The Bonn government has only been able to refer to the early retirement legislation in this wage dispute, putting it forward as a simple way out.

Chancellor Kohl's government is in a difficult position if the introduction of the 35-hour week is to be taken to mean a shortening of the working week.

But the decision on this will not be made by either Bonn or the Bundesrat (Upper House) but by the two sides in the wage negotiations themselves.

It is to be hoped that the basics in the early retirement legislation will act as something of an ice-breaker, pushing aside some of the obstacles to a summit meeting, long overdue, between the two sides in the wage negotiations.

If the early retirement measures can be used to reduce unemployment they could also be used to considerable psychological advantage to bring the two sides in the wage dispute closer to each other.

Bodo Schulte

(Nordwest Zeitung, 30 March 1984)

Continued from page 5

tion representing German companies that do business with the East Bloc shared Professor Gumpel's view but felt that a continuation of the process of emanicpation was more likely in the decade ahead.

While Rumania was felt to be pursuing an increasingly independent foreign policy, Bernhard Tönnes of Munich said there were no signs of a similar trend in Bulgaria.

There might be no medium-range Soviet missiles stationed in Bulgaria, but that was entirely in keeping with Soviet interests in the Mediterranean.

Heinrich Vogel of the Federal Institute of Eastern European Studies, Cologne, said Moscow's difficulties in the missile context were due to the change since 1979 in points on which Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union were agreed on security policy.

The Soviet Union was more dependent than ever on its intervention capability to maintain its hegemony, whereas its credibility had declined.

In debate there were warnings not to overrate the Hungarian model, which had gone just about as far as it could economically.

The Hungarian system could not be adopted by other East Bloc countries because it was based on special circumstances and on "mentality."

In spite of historic references the conclusions reached were sparing. Policy-makers were advised to take their time and content themselves with gradual progress.

Johnny Erling

(Die Welt, 27 March 1984)

Tax reform and improvements to the family tax burden have entered into the political bargaining phase.

Details of tariff trends, areas where relief will be given, tax-free allowances for children and compensating higher taxes have until now only been taken to be alternative proposals, technical papers produced preparatory to political decisions.

A few points of importance can be noted, however.

The tax burden will remain at 35bn marks with five billion marks earmarked for the benefit of families with children.

The political powers that be propose to correct the tax system by the well-tried methods of increased tax-free allowances and tinkering with the income tax scale.

The whole plan will be introduced in two phases with almost a half of the total cost being raised by indirect taxation.

Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg is under pressure to guide discussions along orderly paths and not to tear apart any silver linings on the horizon. His main aim is to re-establish the state's credit and not be diverted by secondary considerations.

His efforts are worthy of respect even if the increased re-financing rate from 40 to 50 per cent will have to be borne by taxpayers and that economically is not convincing and politically is hardly acceptable.

The coalition, but in particular the CDU, cuts a clumsy and poor figure in this first attempt into tax reform. The party has always enjoyed a fair reputation in tax matters, even with citizens who don't support it.

This trust, an important factor in the growth cycle, has been gnawed away over the past few months.

■ FINANCE

Taxation changes go on to the bargaining stage

Taxation appears to have become the tail-end of budgetary and family affairs policies.

Economic arguments for a re-structuring of the tax collection method and a reimbursement of inflationary taxes is hardly to be heard any more behind the public protestations about aid to families made by Heiner Geissler, Lothar Späth, Alfred Dregger and even Franz Josef Strauss.

At least they are now heard with the clarity and forthrightness that is essential as a signal for economic growth, enterprise and productivity.

It goes without saying that the Finance Minister has had to reconcile tax burdens with the demands made by governmental departments. These demands are many.

Christian Schwarz-Schilling wants to cover the countryside with cables without having to find the cost for doing so. Employers would like employees to take earlier retirement with the state footing the bill. Those who talk about progress in agriculture can only think in terms of new subsidies.

Citizens take the view and this should not be neglected that the difference is whether tax relief should be placed alongside the amounts sought by government departments or whether the government should get its priorities in order and then apportion what is left over.

Tax relief pops up in political oratory and in half-hearted considerations of the budget position. The Finance Minister's re-financing increase from 40 to 50 per cent is too high, although Stoltenberg's arguments here are worthy of respect.

The Minister fears that a further increase in the net borrowing requirement will lead to higher interest rates, which will stifle investment. In addition it will not bring about a change from more state and less private participation in the national product.

This risk is not a pale phantom in the night, but Stoltenberg's strategy is risky. The state's share will not be smaller so that it can be financed by increased consumer taxes rather than credit.

To keep back government spending government commitments must be reduced, including family affairs policies.

It is living on cloud nine to imagine that higher re-financing, which trial calculations estimate would involve twelve billion marks, can be achieved without increasing value added tax by at least one point.

But that will only increase the tendency of earnings passing into the "black market labour economy".

It would be counter-productive to aspire to high re-financing of the tax burden. Increased consumer taxes deprive the treasury increasingly of a taxable basis.

After a careful consideration of the risks the Finance Minister should have the courage to accept a temporary increase in credit. That would do tax policy a world of good.

Hans D. Barbier

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 March 1984)

Institute says a recovery is not certain

Ifo, the Munich-based economic institute, now says it is not sure if an upturn is on the way.

Up till now, it has been convinced that recovery was around the corner.

Four hundred major companies have indicated that they do not expect any impressive improvement over the next few years, so a swift decline in unemployment cannot be expected.

That may or may not be. But businessmen are not going to do their name much good by adhering inflexibly to their five-year plans. They should take into consideration short-term data.

It should not be forgotten that small and medium-sized operations are typical of the West German industrial landscape, not huge concerns.

What is important is that a firm exists and offers jobs. Until now it has been in dispute if the economic upturn will come from huge concerns. We would be far better off if we had ten thousand businessmen prepared to jump in "and have a go."

But the changeable observations on economic recovery force certain facts down the throat. One thing is certain: the upturn when it comes will not immediately create more jobs, if it does so at all.

Economic recession or boom is not a matter of destiny, the upturn cannot be turned on automatic pilot, so that we can sit back in peace.

The second point is motive. It is the same as ever. No one is going to risk his own, or someone else's money if the venture does not pay more than the eight per cent that can be earned from government bonds.

Despite some successes there is here still much to do. Every kindly promise that is not deserved goes in the wrong direction because it tinkers with the interest rate system and scares investors off instead of urging them on.

Investment in new machinery will for a long time have to be affected by a loan, and the rates are well above the rate paid on treasury bonds.

That is the hard truth behind many developments today, economy measures, tax reform, pay round negotiations or family affairs policies.

Peter Gillies

(Die Welt, 28 March 1984)

An odd job to confound a television panel

The number of jobs performed by self-employed people is becoming so varied that the panel on Robert Lembke's television guessing game (similar to What's my Line?) is finding it an ever greater challenge.

Now we have the "subsidy adviser". If the paper work involving subsidies were simplified, the subsidy adviser would be out on his ear.

As it is, the tougher the economic situation gets, the better it is for him.

Red tape has also given an opening for the "tax adviser". And this market grows with each programme introduced to promote business.

How can a businessman say no to a loan when the competition has taken advantage of one?

Ministerial leaflets and advice from chambers of commerce and professional associations are not enough. Officially, the activities of subsidy advisers are regarded with pain and with a smile.

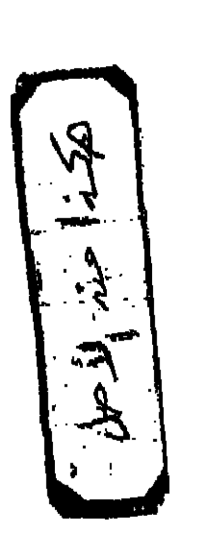
On the one hand some of the cash offered as a subsidy finds its way into the pocket of the subsidy adviser, but on the other, the adviser does help get the cash into the hands of the right man.

But it is not in the scheme of things to have the adviser paid for his advice with a commission of from 30 to 50 per cent of the loan. Although adviser sharks of this order are not common among subsidy advisers.

It is much more usual for a more reasonable commission to be paid at the conclusion of negotiations for financial help. If the fine words that politicians speak about making it easier to get a subsidy were to change from words to action the new profession would be in for a difficult future. But that does not appear to be happening. A subsidy adviser has good days ahead.

Rainer Nahrendorf

(Handelsblatt, 28 March 1984)



■ PEOPLE

Max Grundig's retirement marks end of an era

Now the Monopolies Commission has given the go-ahead for Philips to increase their stake in Grundig, the decision is final. The Grundig era is over.

From April the Dutch parent company will assume full management responsibility for Grundig in Fürth, Bavaria. Max Grundig will no longer be in charge.

He will not move "upstairs" to the supervisory board of his company, as at one stage envisaged. He will merely remain an adviser to Grundig AG.

It will be a wrench. The firm was his life's work and he identified himself with it totally.

He invariably saw the company's interest as the yardstick of his every decision, just as he applied a very personal yardstick to the company and its staff.

These strong personal links will have been a major reason why Grundig's last few years in business have not been his best.

True, they have been a period in which the company was under serious pressure. Japanese competition, imaginative and powerful, has hit all European manufacturers of radio, TV and hifi equipment hard.

The Grundig group offered tough resistance but competition from the Far East made its mark.

Max Grundig made a last major bid to set up a European front against this competition, but the cards were no longer in his favour and the bid failed.

He then planned a merger with Thomson-Brandt, the French state-owned firm, but that was an idea that was on shaky ground from the start.

The take-over by Philips is a step in the European direction, although a far cry from what Grundig originally had in mind.

Above all, the past few years in Fürth have been a phase of inner uncertainty while Grundig made unsuccessful attempts to settle the succession issue.

He tormented himself and his surroundings in the quest for a successor and seems mainly to have been on the lookout for a mirror image of himself.

Besides, he clearly was slow to come to terms with the idea of handing over power of any kind.

His eventual quest for a strong prospective merger partner may arguably have been due to the realisation that he had to force himself into action.

Meanwhile, one candidate after another for the succession came and went. It was a period of errors and mistakes that only assumed a more settled look once Grundig came to terms with Philips.

Transfer of power to the Dutch company may make survival in troubled times likelier, but it marks the end of any idea of maintaining corporate independence now the pilot has been dropped.

Troubled times and his own human failings have ended in stripping a little of the lustre from Max Grundig's life work. But it remains an impressive achievement.

He remains the living symbol of the industrial awakening that enabled the Federal Republic of Germany to emerge triumphant from wartime devastation and post-war hardship.

His career was a copybook one: from a commercial trainee with a dealer in electrical equipment to a fully-fledged industrialist in his own right.

He was a living example of what the forces of change can accomplish after being freed from the shackles of economic controls.

He made his first million with the Heinzelmann, an early post-war stroke of genius. It was a do-it-yourself radio kit marketed in 1946.

The Heinzelmann was both a sign of the times and a challenge to them. Grundig didn't have the valves he needed to manufacture a complete radio.

Instead, he relied on the ingenuity of his customers to rustle up the missing parts.

Besides, he wasn't allowed to manufacture and sell a complete radio. The system of rationing and economic controls ruled out this idea.

So he sold instead a do-it-yourself "toy" kit with only a few parts missing. It could be bought "off rations," no coupons were needed, and it sold like hot cakes.

This subterfuge was a forerunner of the transition, a year or two later, from economic controls to a free market economy.

The change came in 1948 when Economic Affairs Minister Ludwig Erhard, who like Grundig came from Fürth, scrapped controls and introduced a new currency, the deutschemark.

Max Grundig was among the first to make use of the change. He sensed that the time had come to manufacture and sell goods fast and in bulk, quality products at cut prices.

Manufacturing goods in bulk was typical of the era, and as a rookie industrialist he more than once backed to the hilt a winner that would have taken his firm to the cleaner's if it hadn't turned up trumps.

In the headlong rush of post-war economic recovery he embarked on one successful venture after another, steadily extending his product range and opening new factories.

He even moved into European markets. Grundig was both the unchallenged market leader in West German entertainment electronics and a European leader.

It was the success story of a man who in those early years was fired by boundless optimism and entrepreneurial skill. He certainly had the knack of getting the product to the customer.

He was on first-name terms with technology and arguably had an even more intimate relationship with design. He sensed what the public wanted.

Tomorrow's product, not today's, is what has always fascinated Grundig. He was progressive without losing touch with what most people would be prepared to buy.

He combined market observation, knowledge of his products and an instinctive awareness of trends that more than once enabled him, as an initial outsider, to stay that vital step ahead of the competition.

Other factors that made him the big name he unquestionably is were intuition, improvisation, readiness to run a risk and determination to see an idea through to its logical conclusion.

He combines sensitivity where the product is concerned with severity when it comes to himself or others.

Grundig was a post-war pioneer who



Max Grundig

(Photo: J. H. Darchi

helped to determined the speed and direction of economic recovery, and he still showed signs of his former fighting spirit when times had changed.

But the sales offensive of days gone by has long given way, under pressure from the Far East, to a tooth-and-nail fight to retain shares of the market.

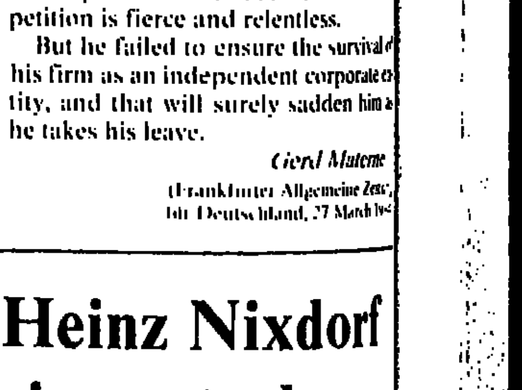
Max Grundig, a prototype of the self-made German industrialist, has now handed over control of his company to a major corporation.

The merger wasn't a foregone conclusion, although Grundig was undeniably under pressure in a market where competition is fierce and relentless.

But he failed to ensure the survival of his firm as an independent corporate entity, and that will surely sadden him as he takes his leave.

Gerd Materne

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 27 March 1984)



Computer king Heinz Nixdorf stays firmly in control

The German *Wirtschaftswunder*, or economic miracle, sired many new and successful companies in the 1960s and 1970s, but few success stories can compare with Heinz Nixdorf's.

His name is regularly mentioned as the prototype of today's self-made German entrepreneur.

Nixdorf AG, his computer company, may long have gone public, but the influence of the board chairman remains decisive in company policy.

There will be no change in this state of affairs when Nixdorf floats a nominal DM72m in new share capital in May or June.

Paid-up capital will total DM360m, so the new issue will amount to 20 per cent. They will be preference shares, but non-voting ones.

Nixdorf says the company needs extra cash from outside to ensure even faster growth and bridge the gap between it and US computer firms.

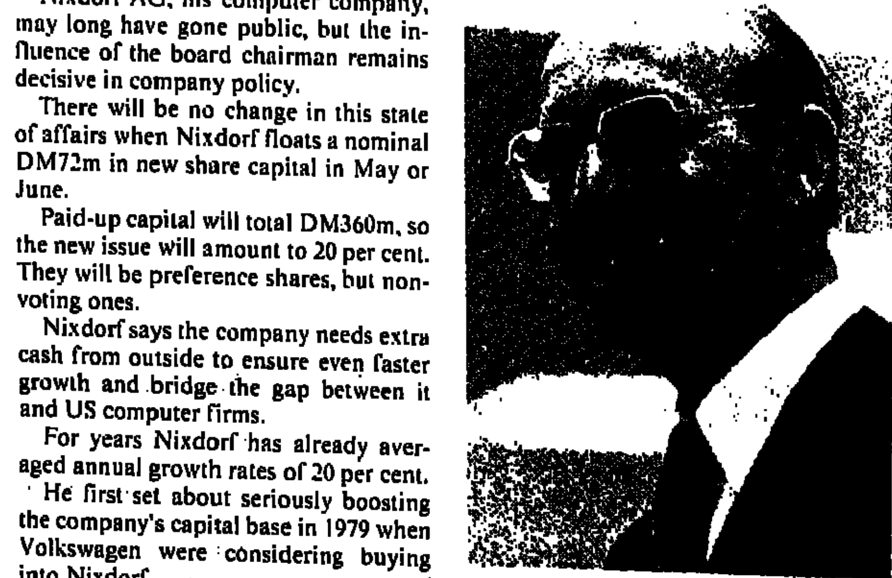
For years Nixdorf has already averaged annual growth rates of 20 per cent.

He first set about seriously boosting the company's capital base in 1979 when Volkswagen were considering buying into Nixdorf.

VW eventually took over Triumph-Adler, the office machinery firm, which has cost them a packet and only now looks like coming out of the red.

Plans to take over Nixdorf were abandoned when Heinz Nixdorf refused to part company with his majority shareholding. Volkswagen were not prepared to buy without gaining decisive influence on company policy.

Deutsche Bank stepped in and bought a 25-per-cent share as part of an increase in the company's share capital. Terms were negotiated by Nixdorf and





Heinz Nixdorf

(Photo: dpa)

Wilhelm Christians, co-chairman of Deutsche Bank's board.

The Nixdorf family have since bought back part of this 25-per-cent stake.

Nixdorf has got where he is by concentrating on decentralised use of computers. At a time when all the experts swore by king-sized central computers Nixdorf in the mid-1960s began manufacturing small-scale units for smaller companies.

He has steadily extended his product range. It now extends from the micro to the full-sized computer. Nixdorf is Europe's leading manufacturer of bank terminals and leads the world in data collection systems.

It all began with the laboratory for impulse technology he set up in Essen in 1952 when he was a 27-year-old student in his ninth semester of physics and business studies.

Nixdorf now has a world payroll of 18,000. The company has works in Paderborn, Berlin and Cologne, the United States, Spain, Ireland and Singapore.

It has nearly 30 foreign subsidiaries that sell computer equipment and know-how and do so with great success in America and Japan.

It regularly invests about 10 per cent of turnover in research and development.

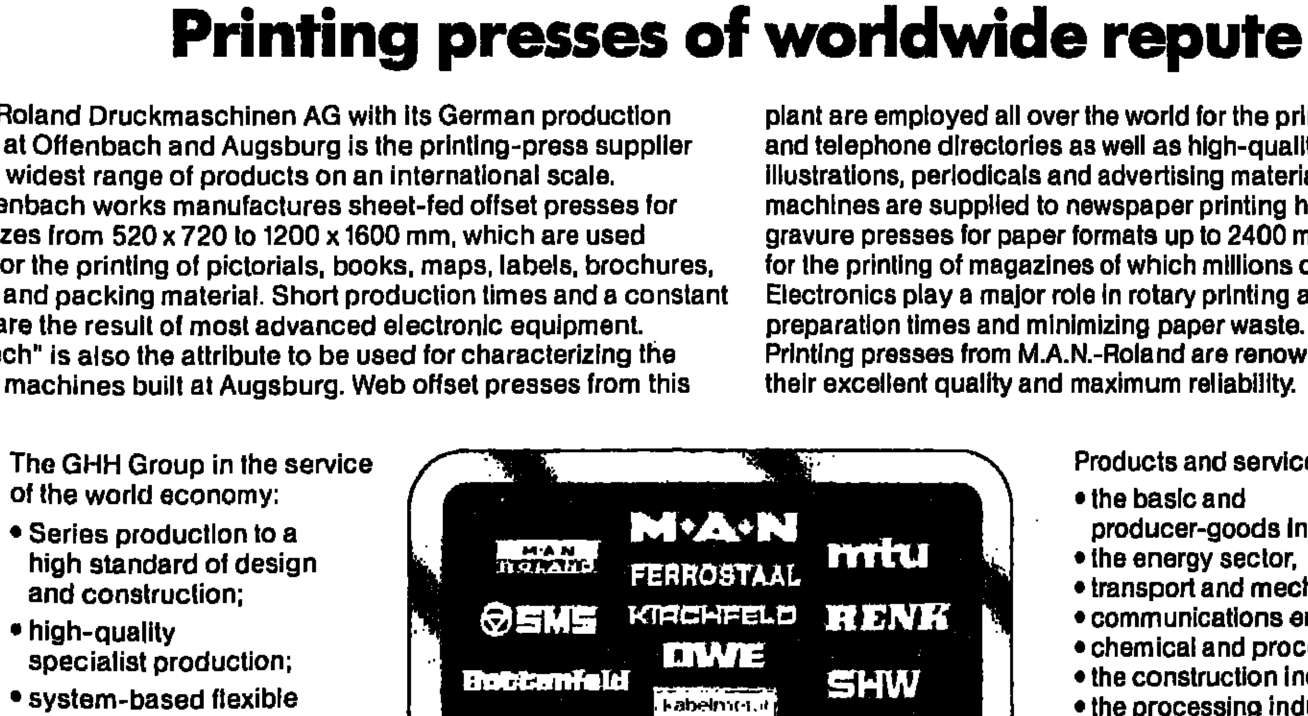
Last year turnover was up 19 per cent to DM 2.7bn. The largest overseas subsidiary is the Nixdorf Computer Corp. based in the computer belt near Boston, Mass.

The US subsidiary manufactures in Boston and has over 100 sales outlets in North America. Nixdorf also has a research unit in Silicon Valley, California.

The corporation is the largest non-American computer manufacturer in the United States.

Rainer Diermann

(Nordwest Zeitung, 24 March 1984)





■ GERMAN CULTURE

The payoff for promotion of the arts

More than 210,000 people visited the Tübingen exhibition of Degas drawings within 10 weeks.

That is three times the population of Tübingen, a small university town in Württemberg. They all walked round the five small rooms of the exhibition.

Nearly 80,000 copies of the heavy-weight catalogue were sold: entire van-loads in the course of a single day.

When it was all over Götz Adriani of the Kunsthalle, who ran the exhibition singlehandedly, was able to hand over to the city a clear DM1m in profits.

Tübingen may be an exception, but it does demonstrate in a most striking manner the opportunities presented by the federal system of arts promotion in West Germany.

Nowhere in the world are the arts promoted, subsidised and housed so lavishly and luxuriously as in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Think of the enormous number of new theatres and concert halls built since the war. They have all played a major part in the process of reconstruction and enabled Germany to regain a cultural identity.

Construction work has since veered in the direction of museums, with new buildings going up in cities all over the country since the mid-1970s.

Ludwigshafen, Hanover, Mönchengladbach and Bremen have allowed themselves the luxury of ambitious new museum projects to house 20th century art.

Munich has put up an enormous complex to house 19th century art.

Last year Bottrop, Bochum, Mannheim and Essen stole each other's show by opening new museums simultaneously, while the British were green with envy over the Neue Staatsgalerie in Stuttgart.

Designed by British architect James Stirling, it alone cost roughly the equivalent of the Arts Council's entire annual budget.

A glance at the other Germany is all that is needed to compare and assess this well-nigh hectic activity in the arts.

The Neues Gewandhaus in Leipzig, built in 1981, was the first new concert hall ever built in the GDR, while the annex to the Schiller-Haus in Weimar will be the GDR's first new museum.

Comparison with other countries reveals a similar picture. In France, where the arts budget was recently doubled, prestige projects in Paris continue to account for the lion's share of subsidies.

Paris shines more brightly than ever, while the provinces, no matter what initiative they may seize, pale in comparison.

It is much the same story in Britain, where London remains one of the busiest arts centres in the world. The sparkle of a handful of regional arts festivals where stars appear soon subsides once the festival season is over.

Confusingly rich and alive as artistic life in New York may appear to be from the distance of Europe, it is in reality extremely straightforward and limited in extent.

Cultural patterns in Holland and Switzerland most readily bear comparison with the situation in Germany, and the reason is clear. Neither, indeed none of the three, is centrally-run as clearly as most other countries are.

None has a top-heavy artistic bureaucracy that attracts artistic activities to a single venue. Local and regional competition happily survives.

Länder and local authorities in the Federal Republic of Germany currently subsidise over 350 theatres, 93 fully-fledged concert and theatre orchestras and 12 chamber orchestras.

Classical opera houses with full-scale companies are the privilege of a mere handful of cities in neighbouring countries; in the Federal Republic there are dozens of them.

The mesh is even closer in the representational arts. Any number of museums, art galleries, associations and local authority bodies hold a variety of exhibitions throughout the year and encourage local artists.

Then there are the dozens of literary award and bursaries for poets, playwrights and authors who produce even the feeblest of verbal outputs.

It is not hard to work out that in percentage terms there can hardly be a country to rival the Federal Republic for the number of its award-winning artists, theatre-goers, museum visitors and concert hall regulars.

The arts in Germany undeniably live off the fat of the land, and this is something the Germans can initially be proud of.

Since the war they have accomplished what deserves to be termed a miracle in the arts, a miracle that falls little short of the *Wirtschaftswunder,* or "economic miracle" of post-war recovery.

The arts, after having been crushed under foot by the Nazi jackboot, were helped back on to their feet by the free market principle of investment.

Their institutions flourished. Rivalry *between local authorities and regions* helped to keep the pot boiling. The result is an artistic menu of which others are envious.

So the martial aspect of the Germans, the aspect that is hostile to the arts, seems to have been overcome. Germany appears to have returned to the fold of civilised nations.

Can the Germans now think of themselves once more as a nation of poets and philosophers? Is imagination a power in the state or does creativity refer once and for all to economic affairs nowadays?

The answer cannot be an unqualified affirmative. We can be gratified that the parrt played in public life by the arts has increased enormously.

A sound-barrier was exceeded recently when more people were found to be visiting museums than passing through Bundesliga soccer turnstiles in during the football season.

The ratio between producers and consumers of the arts seems to be balanced. The market is flourishing. The investment has been worthwhile.

But what about the arts and artists themselves? Have convenient subsidies crucially improved the quality of output? Have they made to-flight performances possible?

Are subsidised youngsters capable of filling the gaps that occur among such a wide range of artistic opportunities? One wonders.

The three leading new museums built in the Federal Republic are the handiwork of an Austrian, a British and an American architect respectively.

Documenta, the Kassel arts show, is being organised by an non-German team for the third time.

Many highlights of the operatic and theatrical season are staged by directors

Continued on page 11

Mediocrity, a legacy of the Jewish exodus

Teh mediocrity of intellectual and scientific life in the Federal Republic is much-lamented. We are gradually tending to forget one of the reasons for it.

It is the expulsion of the Jews during the Third Reich, an intellectual community who made a major contribution toward artistic life in Germany.

Since their exodus wit and acumen, perceptive thought and delight in discussion have been scarce commodities in Germany.

"The expulsion of the Jews from German intellectual life marked a revocation of much of the Enlightenment," Friedrich Cramer, from Göttingen, said at the German ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Weizmann Institute of Science.

The institute, in Rehovot, Israel, is one of the world's foremost centres of scientific research.

Cramer said he could imagine no finer objective for academic life in Germany than to regain this lost Enlightenment.

He feels the exodus 50 years ago still accounts for the shortcomings of German research. Shortage of funds, for example, is not to blame.

He recalled that no fewer than 25 Nobel prize-winners were forced to emigrate from Nazi Germany. The people Germany today lacked were to be found working as research scientists in places such as Oxford and Cambridge, Princeton and Rehovot.

The only Jewish scientist of world renown who accepted Weizmann's invitation to start from scratch in uncertain Palestine was Nobel chemistry laureate Fritz Haber.

Haber had resigned voluntarily as head of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Physical Chemistry, but didn't make it to Palestine. He died in Switzerland in 1934.

The anniversary ceremony was held in his honour at the Harnack-Haus in Dahlem, Berlin, which used to belong to the Kaiser Wilhelm Society.

Haber had planned and opened the building, said Professor Reimar Lüst, head of the Max Planck Society, which took over from the Kaiser Wilhelm Society after the war.

On the first anniversary of Haber's death, at the beginning of 1935, the Kaiser Wilhelm Society held a memorial ceremony in Berlin.

It was held very much to the displeasure of the Nazis. The hall was full to overflowing. Gestapo agents mingled among the distinguished public.

"It was the last time intellectual independence was publicly demonstrated in the Third Reich," Cramer said. It was a risk to run even as early as in 1935.

Now, 50 years later, the meeting of Israeli and German scientists in the same hall symbolised their cooperation, especially collaboration between the Weizmann Institute and the Max Planck Society, said Josef Cohn, Weizmann's longstanding closest associate.

There was a wide range, of joint projects, a brisk exchange of scientists and students, and the annual symposiums to which Michael Sela, head of the Weizmann Institute, specially referred.

They have been held for over a decade, first in Germany, then in Israel. Fellow-scientists from both countries compare notes for a week.

The Weizmann Institute has specialists in many fields. Its research staff numbers about 1,000, including 400 students writing PhD and other theses.

They work in five faculties (mathematics, physics, chemistry, biophysics and biochemistry, and biology) subdivided into 22 research departments.

Many applied projects accompany the basic research. Israel, which meets about half of the institute's costs, sets great store by putting research findings to practical use in, say, agriculture and industry.

A number of firms inthe vicinity of the Weizmann Institute try with its backing to convert theory into practice.

Biomedical research, carried out by roughly 200 scientists in 12 research units, is a speciality. Rehovot immunologists, for instance, have successfully tested on laboratory animals artificial vaccines that will, it is claimed, one day be cheaper and safer than conventional vaccines.

It may only be a matter of time before the Weizmann Institute comes up with an all-purpose influenza vaccine.

Israel Pecht outlined in Berlin another example of immunological research. He has found out how cromoglicinic acid, a well-known asthma remedy, works.

His work is not just a contribution toward basic research into allergies. It may also lead to the development of better and more easily usable drugs to treat allergies.

Scientific contacts between Israel and the Federal Republic began years before political ties were established, although where Israel is concerned it is difficult to draw a dividing line between the two.

Chaim Weizmann said research was the Jews' most powerful weapon. He himself was both a leading Zionist and a well-known chemist and microbiologist.

In 1902 he advocated a Jewish university as the nucleus of the state of Israel he envisaged. He was not only the founder of the research centre in Rehovot that now bears his name but a founding father and first head of state of Israel.

A later Israeli President, Ephraim Katzir, was also a research scientist at the Weizmann Institute. While he was in office he held monthly meetings of decision-makers, industrial and political, in Rehovot.

These gatherings were never attended by more than 25 to 30 people but informally they were a highly successful means of coordinating science policy.

That was a detail from the speech made in Berlin on behalf of Shalheveth Freier. He was unable to attend in person, so Ekkehard Maurer read parts of it for him.

Freier noted that the state of Israel was based on the Jewish tradition that learning, research and knowledge are part of the characteristics of the Jewish people and "the source of their national pride."

It is a small country almost entirely lacking in natural resources, but Israel has certainly realised that science is crucial if it is to survive.

Rosemarie Stein

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 30 March 1984)

■ WRITERS

Hostile meeting deepens rift in club ranks

The long-running row in the German Writers' Association continues. A meeting in Saarbrücken ended in turmoil after a left-winger, Hans Peter Bleuel, was elected chairman.

Bleuel, who beat Ingeborg Drewitz by 19 votes to 18 with 11 abstentions in the second run-off, has close connections with the German Communist Party.

Chairman of the Association in Hesse, Peter O. Chotjewitz, said Bleuel was unacceptable as chairman. Drewitz said his election was "no happy solution".

The dissension reached a new high late last year when the seven members of the national executive, incuding the chairman, Bernt Engelmann, resigned following strong criticism over their attitudes.

One of the main objections was a telegram sent to General Jaruzelski which, the objectors say, invited the Polish authorities to set up what would be a mere puppet body.

Engelmann was also criticised for criticising Manès Sperber's acceptance of the Peace Prize of the German Booksellers' Association last year. Left-wing writes don't like some of Sperber's political views.

The criticism culminated in a letter by 50 writes, including many well-known names like Günter Grass, calling for Engelmann to resign as chairman.

At the Saarbrücken meeting, Grass and the Berlin group of Engelmann critics won conference approval, by one vote, for a resolution combining demands for a reinstatement of the original Polish Writers' Association and a public admission that the German association had "been misguided".

This put paid to Bernt Engelmann. The way was clear to elect a new chairman.

But this brought the association near to breaking point, Heinrich Vormweg from Cologne, who had originally chosen to stand for the executive under Ingeborg Drewitz, put forward his own candidature for deputy chairman as a counterweight within the association.

But he withdrew because he did not get the necessary number of votes in the first round and was placed behind Gert von Paczencky.

The settlement of the Engelmann matter finally let other ghosts into the proceedings. Hans Peter Bleuel and Gert Paczecnsky are both political opponents of Engelmann. Günter Grass then said: First we must make clear what is to happen with the Polich resolution.

Chotjewitz said that Dagmar Scherf of the Hesse association had a lot to answer for since she voted for Bleuel despite the fact that previously Hesse had always supported Ingeborg Drewitz.

Erich Loest was elected deputy chairman so that at last a "story teller" was on the executive board.

There was controversy from the beginning of the meeting. It opened with a discussion about solidarity with Poland, which proved later in the proceedings to be the last stone in the road towards Engelmann's resignation.

During his chairmanship, he first came in for criticism for his association with writers' association officials from East Bloc countries.

Then came his comments about Sperber and the Booksellers' prize. And then Poland.

After the dissolution of the Polish authors association, Engelmann, along with the PEN centre, appealed to General Jaruzelski to allow the establishment of "a" writers association in Poland although it did nor necessarily mean a re-establishment of "the" old association.

In this way the various sides had a go at one another in Saarbrücken. Grass, a main critic of association policies in the past, left no doubt in any one's mind that solidarity with Polish colleagues was essential for the association.

Otherwise, he said, the party's over.

The following day Grass said the telegram had to be disowned. He made no suggestion of compromise and remained firm until the end. From the old executive he had received only "vexation, sadness and shame".

And there was for a long time no sign of a change of heart from the other side. Quite the contrary.

Just before the congress Bernt Engelmann along with the chairman of *IG Druck und Papier* (the trade union) Erwin Ferlemann gave an interview in which he spoke of "a conspiracy". The two suggested that there was a "seedy campaign" against Engelmann.

Heinrich Böll, who did not have a right to vote, nevertheless was a powerful voice at the conference and put his finger on the point of difficulty.

He said that it all revolved round association with officials in the East. He pointed out that sometimes one had to make friendly gestures towards them, but it was essential to admit it.

He agreed that the telegram had to be withdrawn. "That is the difference between 'a' and 'the', for after all we are all writers," he said.

Chotjewitz, who for a long time had been a candidate for the chairmanship, eventually broke the deadlock over the Poland issue.

Because of her candidacy, Ingeborg Drewitz did not have anything to say. Only when the dispute reached a peak did she ask to be allowed to speak, a day before the election.

She formulated a sentence that will be remembered for a long time. "Broken pieces can be put together, but the glass no longer has a ring to it."

Michael Bengel

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 2 April 1984)

Ingeborg Drewitz... unhappy over vote. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Not everybody smiled. Engelmann (left) congratulates his successor as chairman of the Writers' Association Hans Peter Bleuel. The meeting ended in turmoil. (Photo: dpa)

Continued from page 10

from France and the GDR. Leading lights in the musical world continue to be hired from abroad.

So subsidies alone are evidently not enough to ensure home-grown quality as well as quantity. Training is no longer adequate to meet the demands of a wider arts scene.

A drawback of the federal system is that it is overtaxed by decisions of national or international importance.

In Germany the artistic soil is so evenly fertilised and the cultural undergrowth so dense that only outstanding personalities stand out.

Tübingen's success in going it alone with the Degas exhibition has proved in a superb manner the creative potential of Germany's artistic provinces.

But everyday life is another matter. It more typically consists of local authority arts officials clinging anxiously to their jobs.

If the money that could saved in red tape were invested in supra-regional artistic events of an outstanding character, the Germans would take some beating as custodians of the arts.

Gottfried Knapp

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 31 March 1984)

■ ENERGY

Coal and its role in an era of new technologies and markets

DIE WELT

Tension has been eased in the energy market, with Opec having its guns spiked, at least to some extent, in more ways than one.

They have included energy saving, the use of alternative resources, the damper imposed by the recession, and the use of new technologies, especially atomic energy.

One result has been that the debate on an energy policy realignment has come to a head again.

It is not enough for politicians, experts and a wider public to reconsider whether public money is still being invested in the right sectors.

Critics are now wondering whether sensible use is being made of one of the cheapest domestic sources of energy, lignite or brown coal.

In the years ahead new nuclear power stations will go on-line and help to reduce still further the shortfall in basic energy requirements.

Electric power consumption is now expected to increase at a lower rate, about 2.5 per cent per annum, so it might be better to build more nuclear power stations.

Why? Because brown coal is too valuable as a raw material for the chemical industry. It would arguably be better to use chemically than to fire power stations with it.

If policy is to be realigned, it will be a long-term process, with energy investment for the turn of the century and beyond.

There are several reasons why it might be realigned:

- The Federal Republic of Germany imports over half its primary energy.
- Uranium can be stockpiled for so long that it may reasonably be regarded as domestic energy, and it can certainly be used for no other peaceful purpose than generating electric power.
- The gradual abandonment of heavy heating oil and, to a lesser extent, of light heating oil is steadily creating a market opening for alternatives.

Environmental Issues

They include coal, increasingly via electric power, gas and piped heating.

- These sources of energy for the heating market of the future are in keeping with bids to ensure environmental protection
- There will be no substitute for oil in transport and the non-energy sector, i. e. as a chemical raw material, in the next 50 years.
- Politicians have joined forces with industry in agreeing, after the success of a pilot plant at Bottrop in the Ruhr, to build a large-scale coal liquefaction facility. It will produce not only raw materials for the chemical industry but also fuel.
- The thorium high-temperature reactor in Schmehausen has gone critical, and its bigger brother is already in existence, if only on the drawing-board. At Big Brother's operating temperatures both hard and soft coal can be gasified and then converted into liquid form, thereby easing pressure on both varieties of coal.

Schmehausen Mk 2 is envisaged as being ideally located midway between the Rhine and the Ruhr.

By the late-1990s, but no earlier, the two kinds of coal could start to meet part of the demand for motor fuels, of which consumption totalled 37 million tons last year, including 14 million tons of diesel oil.

This is a changing energy market in which Germany cannot be too quick to get a look-in.

There can be no denying that government subsidies will be needed to begin with, but two serious political considerations must be taken into account.

One is the long-term supply position, bearing in mind military requirements. The other is the development of energy technology, for which there will be a

Continued on page 13

The energy imbalance

In the Federal Republic of Germany

	Consumption	Production
Bitum. coal	79	83
Lignite	38	36
Oil	156	6
Natural gas	56	19

In units equivalent to millions of tons of coal (1983)

© Globus

■ HEALTH

Rocketing cost of keeping a nation on its feet

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Every tenth deutschemark earned in the Federal Republic goes into keeping the health system running. Legally established health insurance schemes pay out 100 billion marks a year.

Both employers and employees contribute to these costs. The result is that the consumer is deprived of purchasing power and the employer becomes less likely to hire and to invest.

The constantly rising cost causes a constant squabble among insurance companies, doctors, dentists and hospitals. Who should cut costs first?

But they all have a scapegoat: the drugs industry. Every year the parties to collective bargaining, who discuss the issue, try and reach a solution. But little changes.

High costs are no longer a measure of the quality of West German health services, but they do indicate that excesses occur in all sectors of the services.

It cannot be healthy that the number of tablets taken goes on increasing. The use of pills, drops, creams and injections has reached astronomical proportions.

Almost every day new preparations come on the market with the same substances as others but in more costly combinations.

New medicines enjoy a rarity value. The industry sells the same pharmaceuticals abroad much more cheaply than they are sold on the domestic market.

The profusion of pharmaceuticals available means that doctors cannot possibly keep pace with knowledge of their effectiveness and price.

North Rhine-Westphalia Labour Minister Friedhelm Farthmann who made public statistics about the pharmaceuticals industry, has been severely upbraided by manufacturers and doctors alike. No matter how the statistics are assessed it seems a little doubtful that children between birth and the age of five are prescribed tranquillizers 184,000 times a year. Even babies are sedated. Prescribing dangerous pharmaceuticals for school children is no longer exceptional.

Certainly not only doctors are at fault. Many patients believe that grabbing for the tablet bottle is a sensible and non-risk way of solving every problem in life.

Doctors make it too easy not facing up to life: if one doctor does not prescribe the medicine a patient wants another doctor will do so.

A section of the medical profession maintains that the dismaying factor is that they cannot fight against this trend although they themselves do not think it right.

Doctors have agreed a limitation on their fees, but the costs continue to rise. They have upped the number of times they see patients and increased laboratory tests. Progress in health policy affairs remains moderate.

Too many doctors ignore the fact that many illnesses have their origins in personal circumstances, that the most modern equipment can do little about. If parts of the body can be evaluated in marks and pfennigs then the teeth are very important. Dental treatment costs the health insurance system DM13 billion, just four billion marks less than treatment by doctors. West Germans are the world's top for gold teeth. Nevertheless there is no money in the till to prevent dental illnesses among children in kindergartens or at school. For years it has been the hospitals that gulp down the most money. Beds are provided but the cost for personnel and equipment and apparatus does nothing but rise.

You can have a smashing time on pills. (Photo: Poss)

There is not enough money for urgent new acquisitions and patients complain that there is not enough personnel. But no one urges hospitals to be more economic.

Health insurance systems have to go along with whatever hospital administrations, senior physicians or politicians demand.

The whole health service is ill. It would be better and cheaper if those who put the costs up were more economic and did not look upon patients as a bonanza.

To claim that patients alone are responsible for the miserable situation, as the coalition has once tried to is wrong.

Wolfgang Mauersberg

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 March 1984)

Continued from page 12

worldwide demand once coal deposits near exhaustion.

Exports account for 30 per cent of Germany's GNP (as against only 15 per cent in Japan, for instance), so the Federal Republic can't afford to forgo new technology on a large scale in energy.

No-one has ever bought anything straight from the drawing-board. Potential customers all over the world rightly expect suppliers to use their own technologies.

Otherwise they can wave goodbye to world markets — and to prosperity.

Hans Baumann

(Die Welt, 30 March 1984)

Friedhelm Farthmann ... caused a stir. (Photo: Werek)

Doctors accused of being too free with prescriptions

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

Doctors and pharmaceuticals manufacturers have answered with harsh words criticisms by North Rhine-Westphalia Health Minister Friedhelm Farthmann (SPD) against doctors' prescribing practices.

The West German Association of the Pharmaceuticals Industry (BPI) described the accusations as "generally dangerous" and warned patient not to take to heart the minister's admonitions.

Horst Bourmer, president of the Hartmann Association, the West German medical association, said the SPD politician had come up with "home-made interpretations."

Farthmann spoke of the "risky prescribing practices" of many doctors, referring to secret statistics prepared by the BPI.

According to these statistics children were given sleeping medicaments and sedatives millions of times and that pregnant women were given controversial or dangerous medicines.

Answering these specific complaints the BPI said that during pregnancy as few medicines as possible should be taken.

But there were some life or death exceptions, facts that obviously the Minister did not know.

Bourmer stressed that about six per cent of all mother-to-be needed hormone preparations and sedatives in order to prevent them aborting.

The BPI scored a point in dealing with the Farthmann accusation that sedatives were being prescibed for children. With infants suffering from severe health difficulties psycho-pharmaceuticals has to be prescribed, because if these illnesses are not treated they could lead to death.

Bourmer said that is, according to Farthmann out of 8.1 million children 950,000 took psycho-pharmaceuticals this threw a characteristic light on the present pressure on children and its consequent results.

Karsten Vilmar, president of the West German Doctors Chamber ascribed the situation to faulty educational policies over the past few years and the pressure to get the best possible results at school.

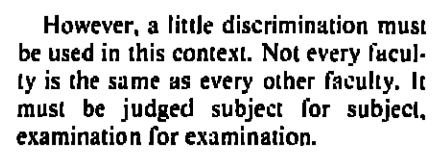
It would be idiotic for patients, he said, not to take prescribed medicaments because of panic over what someone had said.

The SPD parliamentary party sees the health services as the next for economy measures. SPD social affairs experts said at a meeting of the committee for concerted action in medical matters that health insurance contributions had increased on average and he criticised the pharmaceuticals industry for introducing price increases without due consideration of their effects.

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 28 March 1984)

■ EDUCATION

Exam question: how do you make two go into one?



Statistics say that 89,699 students attended West Berlin universities in the 1983/84 winter semester. They also say that there were only 53,380 student places at the universities.

According to the master plan approved by the West Berlin Senate, the number of places needs to be brought up to 60,000.

To add to the confusion, another statistic has it that up to 75,000 students could be accommodated if existing universities were used to maximum capacity.

Whoever loses himself in the jungle of university planning gets the feeling that he will not get out alive. That doesn't apply only to West Berlin, but in West Berlin it is especially true.

The city sees itself as a traditional centre of science in Germany and regards the high number of student places on offer to non-Berliners as a service it owes the Federal Republic. It is fulfilling a capital city role by other means.

However, if all these 90,000 students actually did go to the lecture halls, libraries, laboratories and clinics day after day, teaching would just not be possible.

How many students actually use the university institutions, and how intensively, no one knows. It is suspected that, over the past few years, the number who are still on the books but who don't come any more has climbed steeply.

Many prefer to remain as students rather than become unemployed.

On the other hand, the attitudes of those who do go have changed. This can be seen, for example, in the library halls. In the middle of the 1970s, professors were complaining that they were deserted.

These days they are full. Latecomers have trouble finding a place, even during holidays. Clearly, a new generation has come to the campus.

Diligence and interest have increased, although or perhaps because career opportunities and social welfare are worse than for 10 years.

Berlin is a university city. That means for a large part of the population, disquiet, rebelliousness and even political turmoil. The impressions created by the student movement of the 1960s and the early 1970s are still there.

But in fact, the halls of learning have been quiet for years. The squatter movement had little to do with students. What does remain is the bad academic reputation of the Berlin Free University.

In addition to the Free University, there is the Technical University, the Art College, the Theological College and a handful of technical colleges.

The Free University has 50,000 students, which makes it the biggest in the Federal Republic. But it has only 25,140 student places.

The master plan envisages 28,500 places. The competition will do something to help the flagging reputation. That is the reality. Whether or not the tuition really is worse than elsewhere is a secondary question.

However, a little discrimination must be used in this context. Not every faculty is the same as every other faculty. It must be judged subject for subject, examination for examination.

But at a time when there are too few jobs and too many graduates, few employers bother to distinguish. They don't always believe the evidence of their own eyes.

Hiring decisions are often made on the basis of prejudice, and often the prejudice has its origins in reports of some scandal or other.

Both the left and the right jointly have ruined the university's reputation. But also the fact is that the reputation suffered from public knowledge of what happened on, for example, one day, or cases that happened in isolation.

Over the years, the greater part of the university kept on with its academic efforts, sometimes under extremely difficult conditions.

Then there was also the issue of favouritism regarding professorships and examinations that didn't exactly add to the reputation.

West Berlin council, in the power of a CDU/FDP coalition, believes the time is ripe for change. There is now no longer a demand for comprehensive education as legally stipulated and until now demanded by the FDP.

Better-paid staff

The master plan instead provides for an increase in education and research within faculties. Change should be made to teaching structures, with more highly paid positions to attract better staff at the expense of lesser-paid positions.

The city's Higher Education Senator, Professor Wilhelm Kewenig, also wants a change of accent on faculties towards natural sciences and engineering and away from the traditional humanities and social sciences.

He wants courses to be more closely suited to employment demands; less teacher training; and financial stimulus for special branches of study which conform to the employment market.



Berlin's Free University: Is it as black as it's painted? (Photo: Günter Schne...)

Professor Kewenig's predecessors have already found that Berlin's universities can be heavyweight when it comes to getting them to move.

But he and the CDU have taken legal steps to try and help them do what they want to do. Professor Kewenig's plans have another great strength: they are closely tied to the commercial demands of the city.

The central point is the Technical University, with its many and varied connections to industry. New points of contact have been developed: roughly through a technology-transfer agency for middle-sized firms.

The most spectacular feature is a promotional centre which offers financial and organisational help for new enterprises which want to use new technologies.

Berlin also has many scientific institutions outside the universities, and this gives it such a great potential for innovation.

And then there is the scientific centre with three international institutes. There is a *Wissenschaftskolleg* and also a newly opened centre where visitors can meet and board.

There is no doubt that Berlin's universities benefit from the city's variegated scientific landscape. The governing CDU can also count itself lucky that it is able to build upon work already done by the SPD Higher Education Ministers before it.

Walter Kirchner

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 12 March 1984)

Master of Arts degree is back in favour

Mannheimer MORGEN

An old-style academic education coming back into fashion. The de-gree of Magister Artium, or Master of Arts, has returned.

Next to the doctor's degree, the MA the oldest offered by German universi-ties.

The astounding fact is that in Munich for example, the number of MA graduates has increased more than 20 times over the past 20 years: from 25 in the winter semester of 1963/64 to 545 in 1982/83. Total number of graduates the two decades was 3,489.

At Munich University, there has been a dramatic increase in MA students from 3,772 in 1975/76 to 14,470 in 19... Many of these, of course, either drop out or change to other courses before graduation.

In Britain and America, the Master of Arts degree is traditionally highly regarded.

But in Germany, the resurgence of the arts degree has only emerged after a significant reduction in the popularity of teaching degrees. There is a glut of teachers in Germany.

The MA offers the chance of combining subjects in a flexible manner. In Munich, for example, after the first basic semesters, students can change at least the subsidiary subjects.

But there are strictly limited career prospects for an MA. Journalists, lecturers and others speak from experience.

So, although the degree offers an interesting selection of subjects, a graduate can have a lot of difficulty starting a career.

In the Middle Ages, a Master of Arts graduated after a basic studies course comprising the liberal arts, grammar, rhetoric, dialectics, arithmetic, geometry, music and astronomy.

Only then could he go on to study the "higher faculties" of law, medicine and theology.

Hanns-Jochen Kaffsack

(Mannheimer Morgen, 24 March 1984)

■ MODERN LIVING

How little Miss Kerner from Hagen rose to stardom on 99 red balloons

Pop star Nena, 23, looks so carefree and nice, as harmless and neat as the songs she and her group sing, both on stage and on TV.

When she sings of love under a full moon, of glances surreptitiously shared, of a fairytale world of romance, her movements seem to be dictated by sheer zest and exhilaration.

This joie de vivre need not even be just for show. Gabriele Susanne Kerner, to use her real name, has every reason to be happy in a world that sets great store by material success.

In 18 months she has made a name for herself at a rate unusual even in a profession where ups and downs can be dramatic.

Her meteoric rise to the status of a cult figure on the teenie scene began with an appearance on a pop music programme on TV.

Her single, *Nur geträumt*, was catchy but not too strong in lyrics. Soon after her TV spot it reached second place in the German hit parade.

It had previously lain like lead in the shelves of record shops, as Nena's record company admitted, for six months before taking off.

She promptly waxed an LP, *Nena*, that came on the market early last year. It was the breakthrough and has sold over half a million.

One of the songs on her LP, *99 Luftballons*, was released as a single and skyrocketed into the hit parades in most European countries.

Ninety-Nine Red Balloons topped the British charts for several weeks and made it to the No. 2 spot in the States.

Another LP is in the making and, with a week to go before it is released, over 250,000 copies have already been ordered.

To be awarded a golden disc before the record has even been released, or at least to sell the requisite number, is a striking achievement.

There seems to be nothing to keep in check the way in which an entire generation of teenies are thrilling to Nena and her group.

She has made a film written around a few songs and felt to be an imposition by the critics, but it has been a box-office success.

Gib Gas — ich will Spass is the film's programmatic title. It means, for what it is worth: Step on the Gas — I Want Fun.

The soundtrack of Nena's film and the lyrics of her songs are seemingly superficial as a matter of principle. They reflect little more than an unthinking zest for life.

It appears to be what today's tennis-shoe herd want. It is definitely a far cry from the message that prevailed among young people in the 1960s and 1970s.

Nena may also be considered a conciliatory offering to today's parents. Her tunes are so neat, her lyrics so harmless, her aerobic sex so clean and decent on stage that it is hard to dislike her.

There are no rough edges. She is just the bright kid from next door. She may be 23, but she could easily pass as a teenager.

So it is hardly surprising she is the darling of the media, and it goes without saying that pop magazines have idolised her for over a year.

She is also good for a cover story in other, more highly-rated magazines: Nena, a high school dropout and ex-goldsmith from Hagen, Westphalia.

She unwittingly hit the nail on the head recently when she said: "I'm not really all that important." She may, of course, merely have been coy in owning up to being just average.

But it is a fact that accounts for a success story carefully engineered by her manager, Jim Rakete.

She is bright and pleasant and optimistic. She is just right in an officially proclaimed era of intellectual and moral renewal.

Michael Hirz

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 28 March 1984)

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger



Nena on flight path (Photo: Sven Simon)

Nena at the top of the pops

World renown is a mouthful. No country can truly claim to have produced more than a few people of international repute.

Take the silver screen. Only Americans really seem to deserve international acclaim in the motion picture industry, as the Oscar awards regularly demonstrate.

Few non-Americans are good enough actors to get a look-in at the coveted awards, and German film stars with an international reputation can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

They amount to Marlene Dietrich, in the senior league, and Nastassja Kinski in the junior ranks, and then a virtual blank.

The situation is even more depressing in pop music, where Anglo-American rock stars join forces to roll'em in the aisles.

Or rather, they would roll all before them were it not for pert little Nena from Germany who has soared to top of the pops in Britain and No. 3 in the States with Ninety-Nine Red Balloons.

The *Fräuleinwunder* is back in international headlines for the first time since the heyday of Elke Sommer and the Kessler twins.

We seem sure to see an English version of her film *Gib Gas — ich will Spass* before long, and the very idea of German pop stars such as Roy Black and Drafi Deutscher going transatlantic is overpowering, to say the least.

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 25 March 1984)

Break dancing, greatest boost to culture since something

White gloves, an essential part of the break dancer's outfit, luckily cost only five marks. The other tools of the trade are a trucker's cap and a stereo cassette recorder.

That leaves the dedicated dancer with only the right location to find. After school on Friday Guido, 15, Michael and Christian have to make a beeline for the favourite spots in town.

Competition is fierce, and by 3 p.m. it may be too late to find a place to perform in, especially such a desirable location as Hamburg's exclusive Hanse-Viertel shopping arcade.

Alternative city-centre locations are wet and draughty and the paying public are not over-generous.

Break dancing has been hailed by the *New York Times* as the greatest cultural revolution in the Western hemisphere since the invention of the hula hoop.

It has now come into its own in German railway station concourses, pedestrian precincts and shopping centres.

It all began nearly 10 years ago in the black ghettoes of New York, where the aim was to ritualise in dance form the street fighting between juvenile gangs and the cops.

Youngsters gyrate for all they are worth to the disc jockey's rap. Their movements are broken off, mechanical, like robots.

The music comes from a record player that is rhythmically moved to and fro in the dancer's hand, causing scratching.

There are countless variations. They include the electric boogie, in which the dancer's body jerks as though it were being subjected to electric shocks; the moonwalk, which creates the illusion of walking backwards, and the smurf, an elegant way of falling sideways and turning on the ground.

There are unmistakable loans from mime, such as feeling one's way along an invisible pane of glass and pulling an invisible pole.

But break dance has long ceased to be the black sub-culture it was years ago. Only occasionally does one still sense some of the original spirit.

It is when new stars sing the rap and dance their numbers after graduating straight from the Bronx to the discos and music halls.

Break dance stars such as Grandmaster Flash, Whodini and the Rocksteady Crew are cases in the point. The last-named in particular made break dance famous in Europe last summer.

In *Flashdance*, the box-office success, they danced so impressively to Herbie Hancock's Rockit that imitators from London to Berlin immediately set about their work.

In Germany expense and organisation went into the proceedings. A youth magazine ran a competition. A new LP was issued as music to train to. A new film entitled *Breakdance Sensation 84* has just been networked.

Break dance schools have been set up, and fashion shows from one end of Germany to the other are inconceivable without a display of the new acrobatics.

Guido and his pals learnt their first break dance steps at a youth club. They then went to work using the video at home.

Dance scenes from music programmes on TV were recorded and played in slow motion time and again while the kids learnt it off by heart.

They spend two or three hours a day practising at home when their parents are out, he says, and that's how most get going.

Few ever graduate to the professional level, although the odd one earns a mark or two performing in the discos. The amateurs, mainly 12- to 16-year-old schoolkids, obviously enjoy it.

But they haven't the money they need to kit up professionally. The fashionable leather jacket the bona fide break dancer is expected to wear is more than they can afford.

Guido says loose-fitting gear is what you need to create a cool impression. But only the white gloves are an absolute must.

The kids are happy if passers-by chip in say 25 marks in small change. What matters is to be at the centre of the stage, admired and looked on at with amazement.

Girls just look on and next to never join in but Guido says they are crazy about good dancers. It won't last for ever, though.

It will be all over once any idiot can do it, he says. "I'd give break dancing another three months." *dpa*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 March 1984)

